

CLAIMS

1. A foot for optical or photographic supports, including a telescopic rod having several telescopic members (3, 4, 5) and, for each pair of adjacent telescopic members, an expanding stop mechanism mounted on one telescopic member of the pair and acting on the other telescopic member of the pair in order to block the relative sliding thereof in a first direction of the two directions of relative sliding and to release the relative sliding in the other of the directions, and also means (31) for the release on command of the stop mechanism for releasing on command the relative sliding in the first direction, the stop mechanism including a radially expandable ring and an expander body (22, 22') for the ring for pressing the elements of the ring radially against the inner shell of the other telescopic member as a consequence of a relative movement between the ring and the expander body, characterised in that the ring comprises a plurality of barrel rollers (20, 20') having an outer shell (21, 21') with a curvature coinciding substantially with the curvature of the inner shell of the other telescopic member.
2. A foot for optical or photographic supports according to claim 1, wherein the stop mechanism comprises a cage (17, 17') acting on the ring of rollers (20, 20') in order to maintain them in a position in which they are spaced circumferentially relative to one another and to hold them in position with respect to the movement of the expander body (22, 22').
3. A foot for optical or photographic supports according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the rollers (20, 20') are equidistant from the cage (17, 17').
4. A foot for optical or photographic supports according to one or

more of the preceding claims, wherein resilient means (11, 11') acting between the ring of rollers (20, 20') and the expander body (22, 22') are provided in order to impose a resilient preloading on the rollers (20, 20') by means of the expander body sufficient to apply friction to the 5 relative sliding between the telescopic members.

5. A foot for optical or photographic supports according to one or more of the preceding claims, wherein the stop mechanism comprises a stopper (8, 8') mounted at one end of the inner telescopic member of the pair, a sleeve (13,13') capable of sliding in the stopper, resilient 10 means (11, 11') between the stopper and the sleeve tending to return the sleeve into the inner telescopic member of the pair, the expander body including a conical ring (22, 22') capable of being positioned between the rollers (20, 20') and the sleeve as a consequence of the load weighing on the telescopic members in the first direction.

15 6. A foot for optical or photographic supports according to one or more of the preceding claims, wherein the cage (17, 17') comprises a plate (16, 16') mounted on the sleeve (13, 13') and subjected to the preloading action of the resilient means in order to press the ring of rollers (20, 20') into engagement with the expander body (22, 22').